

Category	OLTP (On-Line Transaction Processing)	OLAP (On-Line Analysis Processing) and P&DSS (Planning & Decision Support Services)
Nature	Primary Point of data entry for business	Consolidation point of data, much of which is pulled from various OLTP databases.
Usage	Operational databases helping to control and run fundamental business tasks	Source of data and processes for planning, project/problem solving decision support
Viewpoint	Snapshot and/or ongoing status of business	Trend over time and multiviews of business
Processing	Most tasks follow standard procedures and well-defined workflows.	Tasks and processing follow interesting leads and many refinements of models.
Type of Processing	Short, fast updates and queries of a few records	Primary queries of many records, few updates.
Time to Process	Consistently fast, often real-time processing	Fast, but varies widely with task and process
Database Size	OLTP is smaller in raw data than OLAP because historical data is archived.	Bigger due to historical data plus the indexes and aggregates needed to speed operations
Database Structure	Highly normalized, many tables	Fewer tables, simple star or snowflake design
Backup & Recovery	Critical to run the business, legal liability	Just do a reload of OLTP data and/or archives

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